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## Canada

**Post:** Ottawa

### Highlights of Canada's March 2009 Seeding Intentions for Principle Crops

#### Report Categories:

Grain and Feed

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#### Report Highlights:

Statistics Canada released the results of the March Intentions of Principle Field Crop Areas on April 24, 2009. The planting surveys suggest that the total area seeded to grains (wheat, barley, corn, and oats) in 2009/2010 will be only marginally less than the previous crop year; however, a return to normal yields is expected to result in decreased in production in 2009/2010. Post forecasts 2009/2010 Canadian total production of wheat, barley, corn and oats at 50.7 million metric tons (MMT) in 2009/2010, down 8% from 55.3 MMT in 2008/2009.

#### General Information:

##### Highlights of the Canada March 2009 Seeding Intentions for Principle Field Crops:

Statistics Canada released the results of the March Intentions of Principle Field Crop Areas on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The planting/seeding intentions survey results suggest that the area seeded to total wheat will be similar to the area planted to wheat the previous year. A nearly 20% decline in area intended to be seeded to winter wheat and a 5% decline in area intended to be seeded to durum is off-set by a 6% increase in area intended to be seeded to spring wheat. Area seeded to barley is expected to increase by 1% from the pervious crop year. The area seeded to corn is expected to increase 4% while the area seeded to oats is expected to decrease almost 10% from the previous year. The planting surveys suggest

that the total area seeded to grains (wheat, barley, corn, and oats) in 2009/2010 will be only marginally less than the previous crop year; however, a return to normal yields is expected to result in decreased production in 2009/2010. Post forecasts 2009/2010 Canadian total production of wheat, barley, corn and oats at 50.7 million metric tons (MMT) down 8% from 55.3 MMT in 2008/2009.

#### **Wheat, Barley Corn, and Oats Production Forecast:**

Post's revised production forecast is based on the results of the March 2009 seeding intentions surveys. Wheat forecasts have increased significantly from the April 7, 2009 outlook, while oats production forecasts have decreased significantly further.

Crops		Crop Year 2008/2009	April 7th Production Outlook 2009/2010(f)	April 24th Production Outlook 2009/2010(f)	Units	Area as a % of 2008
All Wheat	area seeded/intended	10,192		10,182	(1000 H.A)	100%
	area harvested	10,032	9,150	9,912	(1000 Ha)	
	yield	2.85		2.62	(MT/Ha)	
	production	28,611	23,950	25,968	(1000 MT)	
Barley	area intended	3,787		3,835	(1000 H.A)	101%
	area harvested	3,502	3,544	3,470	(1000 Ha)	
	yield	3.36		3.11	(MT/Ha)	
	production	11,781	11,000	10,792	(1000 MT)	
Corn (for grain)	area intended	1,204		1,248	(1000 H.A)	104%
	area harvested	1,169	1,200	1,220	(1000 Ha)	
	yield	9.06		8.61	(MT/Ha)	
	production	10,592	10,500	10,506	(1000 MT)	
Oats	area intended	1,758		1,601	(1000 H.A)	91%
	area harvested	1,448	1,375	1,282	(1000 Ha)	
	yield	2.95		2.69	(MT/Ha)	
	production	4,273	3,700	3,448	(1000 MT)	

Sources: [Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 22-002-X, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada \(Grains and Oilseeds Outlook\), Grain and Feed Annual Report 2009](#)

Despite lower prices and high world wheat supplies, high input costs (such as fertilizer) as well as rotational limitations may be having a greater impact on discouraging Canadian prairie farmers away from canola production and towards wheat production than originally anticipated. In addition, at the time of the survey, flooding was occurring in North Dakota wheat country and some Canadian farmers may be thinking that a rally in wheat prices would be possible should the conditions in North Dakota persist and make planting wheat impossible. While the seeding intentions suggest that acreage is expected to remain at levels similar to the previous crop year, a return to average yields is expected to reduce wheat production 9% in 2009/2010 from 2008/2009 levels.

Oats production is likely being discouraged due to slow demand that is a result of flush supplies on the North American market. Production is forecast to fall nearly 20% in 2009/2010 from 2008/2009 levels.

For more detailed information, the April 7, 2009 Canada Grain and Feed Annual Gain Report is available at the following web address:

[GAIN report CA9020](#)

Full survey results as well as information on the methodology and data followed for the Canadian seeding intentions survey can be found at the following website:

[Field Crop Reporting Series – March Intentions of Principle Field Crops Areas, Canada 2009](#)